

# DFS QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STEPHEN D. COAN, STATE FIRE MARSHAL • VOL. 6 • ISSUE 4 • DECEMBER, 2001

## Recruit Classes #146 & #147 Graduate

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-five day Recruit Firefighting Program provides rigorous professional training to our newest firefighters giving them the basic skills to effectively and safely perform their jobs. This tuition-free program is offered by the Massachusetts Fire Academy; a division of the Department of Fire Services.

### Class #146

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy graduated recruit class # 146 on October 19, 2001. The forty-two graduates, thirty-nine men and three women, represent the fire departments of: Abington, Acton, Amesbury, Andover, Bellingham, Braintree, Chelmsford, Chelsea, Concord, Dou-

glas, Easthampton, Gardner, Hull, Mansfield, Middleboro, North Andover, Norwell, Plainville, Reading, Seekonk, Somerville, Tewksbury, Waltham, Watertown, Winchester and Wrentham.

### Class # 147

On November 30, 2001, the MFA graduated recruit class #147. The forty-four graduates, forty-two men and two women, represent the fire departments of: Acton, Belmont, Braintree, Bourne, Cambridge, Charlton, Hyannis, Lawrence, Marlborough, Medford, Middleboro, Middleton, Raynham, Rockland, Shrewsbury, Somerville, Ware, Watertown, Westfield, Westwood, and Winchester.

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*Recruit Class #146*

## BMW 2001 5-Series and X5 Fire Hazard

BMW has recalled all 5 series automobiles manufactured between January and August 2001, and X5 SUVs manufactured between December 2000 and September 2001. The recall is the result of an acknowledged defect in the auxiliary/cooling fans that have been known to fail. Failure of the fan motor can cause the

electrical circuitry of the fan control unit to overload and fail, causing the fan to stop operating. If this does occur, engine overheating and subsequent engine damage could result. It is possible for the failure in the electrical circuitry to cause a fire in the fan control unit located in the front of the engine compartment. This recall affects

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### From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

*Stephen D. Coan*

In many ways life in the fire service has changed since September 11, and in many ways what has changed is merely how we are perceived. Firefighters pre-plan, practice, train and prepare to respond to the unimaginable everyday, hoping never to face it.

In 1999, we lost six brave firefighters in a single day and hoped nothing so horrible would ever happen again. Then New York City lost 343 firefighters and thousands of civilians. These tragedies showed the world just what firefighters do, and the sacrifices they are prepared to make daily in the service of their fellow citizens. We hope never to see such a loss again.

I wish to thank the fire service leaders for their tremendous support which guided decisions that needed to be made in these recent days of uncertainty. The aftermath of September 11 brought many new challenges to the fire service and public safety agencies and the Department of Fire Services stepped to the plate. We have been planning, training, and equipping to respond to acts of biological or chemical terrorism for several years. We never imagined that the system would be put to the test in the way it was this fall responding to white powder scares. The system was tested and certainly strained, but the fire service adapted and found a way

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## From the Fire Marshal

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to meet every call for service. The coordinated approach from the Firefighting Academy's development and rapid deployment of the SEEP, to the Hazardous Materials Response Program and the 280 HazMat technicians that have responded throughout the state to the more than 900 calls for service, was a successful team effort.

### **Firefighter of the Year Awards**

In early December, Governor Swift held the 12th annual *Firefighter of the Year Awards* to Massachusetts firefighters at a ceremony in historic Faneuil Hall for acts of heroism and bravery above and beyond the call of duty. Secretary of Public Safety James P. Jajuga assisted with the presentation of awards to 27 firefighters from ten communities. Five Medals of Valor were presented to firefighters from Boston and Chelmsford. Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct were presented to teams of firefighters from Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Mattapoisett and Southbridge Fire Departments. Individual Citations for Meritorious Conduct were presented to firefighters from Amherst, Cambridge, Hudson, and Millville Fire Departments. The Outstanding Community Service Award was presented to a member of the Westminster Fire Department.

Governor Swift proclaimed December 4, 2001 as Massachusetts Remembrance Day for the Fire Department of New York who lost so many members on September 11. Accepting the award on behalf of the Fire Department of New York was Deputy Assistant Chief Edward Kaletta and Firefighter Kevin Glock.

I presented the Fire Marshal's award to three groups that were sent to help New York City because of their specialized skills or service. These include members of the Beverly-based federal Urban Search and Rescue

Team, who arrived in New York on September 11 to assist in the search for survivors, members of both the Boston and the statewide network of Critical Incident Stress Management teams, who took what they learned about helping firefighters and families after the Worcester tragedy in 1999 to New York, and the Massachusetts Corps. of Fire Chaplains who helped the thousands of people looking for missing family members – firefighters and non-firefighters. ♦



## Report from the Model Code Committee

**A**t the October 4 Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) meeting, the Board voted to accept both the report from the Model Code Committee and the recommendation of the Committee to adopt the 2003 edition of NFPA 1 as a model for the Massachusetts fire prevention regulations. The Model Code Committee has been in place for over two years now and has spent considerable time and effort to research and determine how best to update and modernize the current fire prevention regulations. While the vote of the BFPR was an important step in the process, there is considerable work to be done to achieve the final goal of a new, modernized fire prevention regulation that is based on a nationally recognized model.

The current fire prevention regulations have served well over the years, but they are of the "home grown" variety and require considerable maintenance and upkeep. From a pure efficiency standpoint it makes complete sense to

move to a model code. NFPA 1 goes through a three-year cycle where the code is updated to reflect new technologies and other issues relative to fire safety. This process alone lifts a heavy burden from those who have worked hard and spent much time over the years to determine what changes might be needed or are appropriate for the regulations. NFPA 1 follows a consensus process with considerable input from both fire officials and the regulated industries. From the Commonwealth's standpoint, the upkeep of the fire prevention regulations would become greatly simplified and far more efficient under this system.

The Model Code Committee spent a good deal of time reviewing two model fire codes that were the most likely to best serve the needs of the Commonwealth. The International Fire Code (IFC) and NFPA 1 were both subjected to considerable review and comparison to the current fire prevention regulations. Beyond the review and comparison process, the committee researched how other states in the country handle their own fire codes. Finally, a number of questions were posed to both the NFPA and IFC relative to technical support, training and publishing.

With the vote of the BFPR, the process will now proceed to a new phase where a new fire code will be developed based on the NFPA 1 model. There are a number of issues specific to the Commonwealth contained in the current regulations. One part of the next phase of this process will be to identify those unique items and integrate them into the model as amendments. Those familiar with the Commonwealth's electrical code will recognize this concept.

As the process continues there will be on-going progress updates. The goal is to have a new fire prevention regulation in place shortly after the 2003 edition of NFPA 1 is published in mid-2003. ♦

# A Tale of Two Sprinklers *by Corey Busch*

Fire sprinkler systems have been around for over 100 years. The first system dates back to the late 1800's where a piano manufacturer designed a system to protect his piano factory. Since then there have been many changes, but the benefits of sprinklers remain the same.

Fast forward to the 1990's, the city of Rohnert Park, CA was one of the first cities in the country to have a zero square foot sprinkler ordinance for commercial properties. It also had for many years, a residential "hot spot" sprinkler system requirement. Three years ago the city, knowing the benefits of sprinklers through experience and research, changed the ordinance to require all newly built homes, and existing homes which undergo a renovation, to be retrofitted with a full sprinkler system. This includes all multi-family complexes regardless of size.

Occasionally the question of "*Why does the city have such a restrictive ordinance?*" comes up. I could simply say we wanted to be on the leading edge, or that *now*, almost every city in the county has a similar ordinance, and that even the county is looking at the same type or ordinance for unincorporated areas. I could say we've known for many years that sprinklers are life saving devices meant to extinguish fires not just control them; or that there has been no reported loss of life in a building protected by a working sprinkler system. Instead, I will tell you a story:

This story starts Thanksgiving night 1993. The location, Hampton Trace Apartments, on Enterprise Drive in Rohnert Park, California. An unsuspecting family had just finished Thanksgiving dinner. After dinner, activities took the family from their dining room area where a fire was nicely burning in the fireplace, to a back room in the apartment. When they smelled smoke it was too late, the

apartment was fully involved. Apparently a log had shifted and then rolled from the un-screened fireplace to an area under the dining room table. Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety responded to find a fully involved apartment building with fire running the attic, roof and eventually taking out six apartments. The seriously damaged apartment building was rebuilt, but this time a full fire suppression system was added to the building.

Now fast forward once more to September 3, 1999. Labor Day weekend at the Boris Court apartments on Boris Court is where I'll take you next. Another fully involved apartment building where a ground floor apartment was the scene of an intentionally set fire. This late night fire had the sleeping, unsuspecting tenants of the building being awakened to the sound of neighbors banging frantically on doors yelling "FIRE!" The fire destroyed six apartments and also had to be rebuilt. Once again the city required sprinklers when repairs began.

Don't worry, this story has not one, but two happy endings.

Monday, March 12, 2001. The Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety responds once more to a reported structure fire at the Hampton Trace Apartments. This fire was the result of a woman falling asleep while cooking in the kitchen of one of the apartments. This time when the firefighters arrived on scene, they found that the fire sprinkler system had extinguished the fire on the stove. Instead of a fully involved structure fire, they found only minor water damage, which they quickly vacuumed up. A sprinkler head was replaced and the sprinkler system was restored to full service, ready to extinguish a fire should it come to call again.

*Lightning NEVER strikes twice*, is how the saying goes. But in the case of the Boris Court Apartments, fire indeed

struck twice – in the exact same apartment where the fire had started September 3, 1999. But this 911 call on Sunday October 14, 2001, had the Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety responding to a fully sprinklered apartment building where a pan, which was left unattended on the stove while the resident went to answer the phone, had started a fire. The sprinkler system activated and extinguished the fire. A little water to clean up and it was business as usual for the residents of the Boris Court Apartments.

Well, that's it, that's my story. Two apartment buildings, four fires. And thanks to the Rohnert Park's sprinkler ordinance and the Public Safety Officers of the Department of Public Safety, the second set of fires had a much happier outcome for the residents of the Boris Court and Hampton Trace Apartments. Now wouldn't you want to live in a fully fire sprinklered home? ♦

*Operation Life Safety Newsletter –  
Volume 16, Nos. 11 & 12*

## Mattress Fire Safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted (3-0) on October 3, 2001 to begin developing a safety standard to reduce the severity of mattress fires and to make mattresses less flammable. The new standard will address fires ignited by sources such as candles, matches and lighters. The goal is to minimize the deaths and injuries from fires started in bedding and mattresses by limiting the size and spread of the fire. There already is a federal standard requiring mattresses to be resistant to cigarette ignition.

Mattress and bedding fires are one of the leading causes of injuries and were second only to upholstered furniture in

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## Fire Investigation Unit to Receive \$3,100 Arson Grant from FM Global

The Fire and Explosion Investigation Section in the Office of the State Fire Marshal was awarded a \$3,100 arson grant from commercial and industrial property insurer FM Global on Tuesday, October 30. The presentation was made by a representative from FM Global, one of the world's leading insurance organizations dedicated solely to property protection, to State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts State Police Lt. Gerard Coletta, Section Commander.

The fire investigation unit will use the funds to purchase a laptop computer and software to aid in investigations of suspicious fires. Last year, the unit conducted 1,075 fire investigations which led to 130 arson arrests. The unit provides fire investigation services to most of the 351 communities in Massachusetts.

Arson is a leading cause of property loss in the United States and throughout the world. Through its arson

program, FM Global assists organizations like the State Fire Marshal's Fire Investigation Unit, which are striving to prevent and control arson. Grants are awarded quarterly to fire departments and related agencies worldwide toward the purchase of investigative tools and related equipment as well as to fund training and juvenile firesetter programs.

For more than 165 years, FM Global has specialized in commercial and industrial property protection and risk management. Many Fortune 1000, Dow Jones-listed and leading international corporations rely on FM Global to better understand the nature and causes of fire, natural hazards and other risks. FM Global provides them with sound loss prevention solutions that safeguard their properties, cost-effective insurance and risk financing solutions, and recommendations to minimize business disruption and its financial impact if a loss occurs. ♦

## New Head of USFA

The United States Senate confirmed R. David Paulison of Miami as the head of the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) on November 30, 2001. Paulison, 54, was chief of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department and past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. USFA is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

As the U.S. Fire Administrator, Paulison will lead a key agency supporting state and local fire service programs. The events of September 11 have increased the national focus on the nation's firefighters and Administrator Paulison will be responsible for implementing FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh's initiatives for emergency readiness, as well as firefighter training and equipment in response to terrorism.

Paulison, who has 30 years of fire rescue service experience, served as fire chief in Miami-Dade since 1992. In this position he oversaw 1,900 personnel with a \$200 million operating budget and a \$70 million capital budget. He also oversaw the county's emergency management office.

Paulison began his career as a rescue firefighter and rose through the ranks to rescue lieutenant, battalion commander, district chief of operations, division chief, assistant chief and then deputy director for administration before becoming chief. His emergency management experience includes Hurricane Andrew and the crash of ValuJet Flight 592.

A native of Miami, Paulison earned a bachelor of arts degree from Florida Atlantic University and completed the program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is a certified paramedic and member of the Miami-Dade Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. ♦



*Lt. Rich Lane, Howard Marshall of FM Global, Steve Coan, Sgt. Dave Lambert, Tpr. Jeanne Stewart (l to r).*

## Fire Officer Training Group

The fall has been a busy time for the Fire Officer Training Group, just like the other groups operating at the Department of Fire Services. The events of September 11 followed by the latest biohazard scares have given us all more reason to provide for the needs of the fire service. We have offered two Fire Officer Supervisory training classes: one in Natick and one in Bedford. The second class we had more applicants than available seats. We also ran a Safety Officer class in Stoneham, which also had a sellout crowd. We were in Devens for Leadership 1, Littleton hosted a class in Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement. We are also doing a joint in-service training program for the Marblehead and Swampscott Fire Departments on Incident Command Systems. All of these were planned before the attack of September 11 and gave us the opportunity to present this material in this new environment. The requests for the spring programs to assist in the development of fire officers across the Commonwealth have been arriving

daily. We are looking forward to the next semester. We will be offering our third three-day program designed to develop the skills of the company officer to manage an incident where something goes wrong. Fire Officer Tactical Training is a combination of hands-on experiences with some classroom discussion to support the goals of the program. This priority selection course is being offered first to graduates of our fire officer training programs and has been well attended in the first two classes. We do not expect the demand for this to diminish. The fire officer group has many programs to offer; any department looking for further information is encouraged to contact Coordinator Kevin Robinson or Assistant Coordinator Robert Loomer at 978-567-3217 or email to [Kevin.Robinson@state.ma.us](mailto:Kevin.Robinson@state.ma.us) or [Robert.Loomer@state.ma.us](mailto:Robert.Loomer@state.ma.us). Due to the workload, we are looking for qualified instructors to work in the group. Anyone who would like more information should contact Bob Loomer. ♦

## Licensing Exams

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, room 502. The same exams are given on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton.

### ***Fire Extinguishers***

Jan. 29, 2002 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Auditorium

### ***Blasting***

Jan. 3, 2002 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Room 502

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by contacting Joanne Melanson, at (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. ♦

## Suspicious Envelope Evaluation Procedure

SEEP stands for Suspicious Envelope Evaluation Procedure. This procedure was developed by DFS-HazMat and MFA divisions at the request of the fire service to enable firefighters to safely and effectively evaluate envelopes which are suspected to contain bio-hazard materials. This program was put on the development fast track, an instructor cadre was trained, paper documentation was developed and a training CD-ROM was produced and mailed to every fire department in the Commonwealth. Within a two-week period approximately 75% of the fire departments either received a direct

delivery training program, or agreed to a later training date which better served their purposes. The SEEP training effort continues with departments that requested the later training dates. The Firefighting Academy is very proud that the efforts of dedicated Haz-Mat specialists and fire instructors resulted in a very effective training effort in a short period of time. After the training was implemented in a large number of fire departments in that two week period, the amount of suspicious envelope calls which had to be handled by the DFS Haz-Mat division dropped by 40%. ♦



# FIRE INVESTIGATION NEWS

The following cases of arson were solved using the witness-driven team concept of fire investigation inaugurated in the Fire Investigation Unit in the 1990's. Local police are the ones who are aware of criminal and suspicious non-fire activity in the vicinity of fire scenes. They are often familiar with street people as well as kids who get in trouble, and they are able to make the connection between activities in the area just before the fire and the fire itself. They are ones who by virtue of patrolling neighborhoods are conducting surveillance that garners crucial clues for fire investigators. Every fire investigation requires that kind of intelligence, combined with the expertise to properly and accurately determine the cause of the fire, and the ability to deploy enough investigators to interview people quickly before they disperse or stories change.

## 3 Juveniles Charges with Setting Hoffman Building Fire in Lynn

Three Lynn youths, aged 13, 14 and 16, were charged with setting the August 28, 2001 fire that destroyed the block-long "Hoffman Building" located at 222 Union Street in Lynn. The charges were arson of a building and several counts of breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony.

The joint investigation by the Lynn Arson Squad, Lynn Police Department, Essex County District Attorney's Office, and State Police investigators assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal has concluded that the fire was intentionally set by three neighborhood teenagers who broke into the building several times over a period of a week. They used gasoline, left behind by workers renovating the building, to start the

million dollar blaze at the base of the stairs to the second floor.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "This was a text book case of how a solid investigation using the resources from several agencies solves cases. The cooperation between investigators in our office and the Lynn Police Department and the Lynn Arson Squad, in consultation with the District Attorney's Office, is a model for how the crime of arson can be solved in large urban settings."

Capt. Jack Decareau of the Lynn Arson Squad noted, "A portion of the building collapsed during the fire which seriously threatened the lives of the firefighters on scene. Fortunately, no firefighters were seriously injured, but it highlights just how serious the crime of setting a fire is."

One of the teens had a history of firesetting. This is another tragic example of the enormous problem of juvenile firesetting.

This was a mixed occupancy building that included a church and a Family Dollar Store. The building occupied an entire city block, and the collapse meant that investigators had to remove an enormous amount of debris before they could stabilize the building enough to safely enter it and begin to make their forensic examination of the scene to determine the cause.

## 60-Year Old Stoneham Man Arrested in String of Arson Fires

A 60-year Stoneham man was arrested and charged with setting four structure fires, one motor vehicle fire and three trash/dumpster fires all within a two week period. The first fire was on September 18, 2001 inside the multi-unit condominium complex where the arsonist lived. All the fires occurred

within a one-block radius of each other; they occurred at all different times of the day, and at one point, two fires were going simultaneously including one at a Ground Round restaurant. All but the first fire had exterior ignitions. The Stoneham Police and Fire Departments aided by investigators from the Office of the State Fire Marshal pooled manpower to conduct round the clock surveillance. Gary Tilden was arrested as he attempted to set a fire at 104 Main Street in a garage behind the site of one of the previous fires. He is currently in custody and being held as a result of a dangerousness hearing. After his arrest, his wife told investigators that she was living in fear for her life and the brand new chain saw found in the trunk of his car led investigators to believe they may have prevented a murder. Although Tilden is only charged with the fire he was caught setting, the fires in this Stoneham neighborhood stopped after his arrest.

## Family Member Terrorizes Elderly Saugus Couple

Around 9:30 p.m. on September 1, 2001 an elderly couple at 50 Atlantic Avenue in Saugus saw the travel trailer parked in their driveway go up in flames and threaten to spread to their house. The couple's granddaughter and three of her juvenile friends had robbed the house earlier in the day and been seen drinking on the property. The teens later returned and set the fire. Saugus Police and Fire pooled information, and with the assistance of state police investigators from the Office of the State Fire Marshal were able to gain admissions from the three juveniles for the fire and charge the off-age granddaughter with breaking and entering and larceny.

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# NEWS FROM CPSC



September 20, 2001 - Release # 01-233

## **National Service Industries Inc. Announce Recall of Drain Cleaners**

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), National Service Industries Inc. (NSI), of Atlanta, Ga., is voluntarily recalling about 1.1 million bottles of drain cleaner sold in 64 oz., child-resistant bottles. The bottles can leak, allowing the contents of the cleaner to come into contact with consumers. These cleaners can cause irritation and burns to the skin and eyes.

NSI has received 16 reports of the bottles leaking, including three incidents involving skin irritations to the leg and hand, and 13 incidents involving property damage.

The following chart provides information concerning the four types of drain cleaners involved in this recall. Only 64-oz. bottles are affected.

Zep Commercial  
10 Minute Hair Clog Remover  
21709-52206  
(888) 805-4357  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET  
Monday through Friday  
www.zepcommercial.com  
zephhelp@zepcommercial.com

Drain Care Professional  
Strength Drain Opener Clog Remover  
21709-60060

Enforcer 10 Minute  
Hair Clog Remover  
21709-52206  
(800) 241-5656 Ext. 686  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET  
Monday through Friday  
www.enforcer.com  
plumbing@enforcer.com

Drain Care Professional Strength  
Drain Opener Clog Remover  
21709-52212

The Drain Opener Clog Remover bottles and caps are white and the Hair Clog Remover bottles and caps are red. Each bottle has the brand name - "Zep Commercial" or "Enforcer" - on a label that also read in part, "Keep all chemicals out of reach of children."

Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Kmart and hardware stores nationwide sold these cleaners from January 2001 through August 2001 for between \$3 and \$6.

Consumers should stop using the cleaners immediately and contact the appropriate company to receive a free replacement cap. Consumers should not return the recalled cleaner to the store where purchased.



## **Cisco Recalls Power Adapters**

Cisco Systems Inc., of San Jose, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 95,000 power adapters for replacement. These power adapters are used with certain Cisco Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) Routers. The adapters can overheat and melt a hole through the housing, posing a fire hazard. In addition, the exposed wires pose a shock hazard.

Cisco has received one report of an adapter overheating. No injuries or property damage have been reported.

This recall involves power adapters with the part number "34-0949- 02." The part number is located on the adapter label, below the Cisco Systems logo. The power adapter is a small, black AC unit, which establishes a connection between the router and an electrical outlet. The adapters are used with the ADSL Routers that provide secure, high-speed Internet access for small businesses, small offices, home offices and corporate teleworkers. The power adapters were shipped with the following ADSL routers:

Cisco 827, Cisco 827-4V, Cisco 826, Cisco SOHO77, Cisco SOHO77-50, Cisco 827-EUR

Service providers and distributors worldwide sold routers with these power adapters, from April 2000 through September 2001.

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*September 26, 2001 - Release # 01-236*

**Maytag Corp. Announce Recall to Repair of Amana Gas Ranges**

Maytag Corp., of Newton, Iowa, is voluntarily recalling to repair about 50,000 Amana Big Oven gas ranges. Maytag acquired Amana Appliances on July 31, 2001. During the broil and self-clean modes, the range can emit high levels of carbon monoxide (CO), presenting the potential for CO poisoning to consumers. Additionally, during the broil and self-clean modes, the temperature of the storage drawer can become extremely high, presenting the risk of burn injuries to consumers. The ranges are safe to use for baking and for cooking on the surface burners.

Maytag has received one report of the temperature on the storage drawer becoming extremely high. No injuries have been reported.

The 30" self clean gas ranges have the following model and serial numbers:

ACF3315A (T) (K)  
Serial Nos. 0005 thru 0103 (First 4 digits of the 10 digits)

ACF3335A (W) (C) (B) (S)  
Serial Nos. 0005 thru 0107 (First 4 digits of the 10 digits)

ACF3375A (W) (C) (B) (S) Serial Nos. 0006 thru 0107 (First 4 digits of the 10 digits)

The model and serial numbers can be located by opening the storage drawer and looking at the tag on either the left or the right side. The brand name "Amana" appears on the front of the gas range.

Appliance and retail stores nationwide sold these gas ranges from May 2000 through July 2001 for between \$600 and \$850.

Consumers should stop using the self-clean or broil functions of the ranges immediately. Consumers should call Amana toll-free at (800) 266-3535 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. CT Monday through Friday for an in-home inspection and free repair. Consumers also can log on to the company's website at [www.amana.com](http://www.amana.com).

*October 4, 2001 - Release # 02-002*

**Compaq Announces Recall of Notebook Computer AC Adapters**

Compaq Computer Corp., of Houston, Texas, is voluntarily recalling for replacement about 594,000 AC adapters\* used with certain Compaq notebook computers in the U.S. This is part of a worldwide recall of more than 1.4 million AC adapters. These AC adapters can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

Compaq has received five reports of fire that were contained to the cases of the AC adapters. No injuries were reported.

This recall involves AC adapters with the model series number "PPP003SD," "PPP003" and "PP2012," which is located directly under "Compaq Computer Corporation" on the AC adapter label. The AC adapters were sold individually and with the following notebook computers:

Armada M300 Armada 3500, Armada M700 Armada E500s, Armada E500 Prosignia 170, Armada V300 Prosignia 190, Armada 100s Armada 110, Notebook 100

Compaq distributors sold computers with these AC adapters and the individual AC adapters from September 1998 through July 2001. The computers with these adapters sold for between \$999 and \$4399 and the individual adapters sold for between \$65 and \$98.

Consumers should stop using the recalled AC adapter immediately and contact Compaq to order a free replacement AC adapter. For more information, call Compaq at (888) 302-7689, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or go to the firm's web site at [www.compaq.com](http://www.compaq.com). \*Recall does not include power cord.







October 5, 2001 - Release # 02-003

### **Biddeford Textile Recalls Electric Blankets**

Biddeford Textile Corp., of Biddeford, Maine, is voluntarily recalling about 394,000 electric blankets. The plug that connects the detachable control switch to the blanket can become loose. The resulting poor electrical contacts can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

CPSC and Biddeford Textile Corp. have received 34 reports of the electric blankets overheating, melting and scorching. No injuries or property damage, other than to the blanket, have been reported.

The electric blankets were sold under the model names Controlled Comfort, EH 2000, Starbright, Staywarm, Supreme 21, Warm Comfort, and had serial numbers A001A to C210C. "Biddeford Textile Corporation," along with the blanket's model name and its serial number are printed on a label near where the control switch is plugged in. The blankets were sold in king, queen, double and twin sizes in various colors, including off-white, hunter green, light blue, navy blue, white, rose, plum, burgundy, French blue, sage green, teal and rawhide.

Department stores including Kohl's and Target, and direct mail order companies, such as Fingerhut and JCPenney, sold these blankets nationwide from August 1999 through July 2001 for between \$100 to \$150.

Consumers should stop using the electric blankets immediately and contact Biddeford Textile Corp. for a free replacement plug connector adapter. For more information,

consumers should call Biddeford Textile Corp. toll-free at (877) 217-6294 anytime, or visit their web site at [www.blanketrecall.com](http://www.blanketrecall.com). Consumers should not return the electric blankets to Biddeford Textile Corp.

October 15, 2001 - Release # 02-007

### **Endar Corp. Recalls Candle Sets Sold in Wal-Mart Stores**

Endar Corp. of Temecula, Calif., and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. of Bentonville, Ark., are voluntarily recalling 74,000 Ambria™ brand candle sets. The wax from the candles can drip and ignite the potpourri. Additionally, when the candles are in close proximity, they generate a significant amount of heat. Each of these hazards could lead to a fire, which could cause burn injuries to consumers.

Wal-Mart has received no reports of incidents. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries.

The 9-Piece Harvest Centerpiece Collection candle set contains seven candles (three white pillars, two red apple shaped novelty candles, and two yellow leaf shaped novelty candles),



potpourri and a round 12-inch copper color plate. Wal-Mart stores nationwide sold these candles from September 1, 2001 through September 20, 2001 for about \$10.



October 16, 2001 - Release # 02-017 & 018

### **Whirlpool Announces Recall of Microwave-Hood Combinations**

Whirlpool Corp., of Benton Harbor, Mich., is voluntarily recalling about 1.8 million microwave-hood combinations. These units can overheat and catch fire.

Whirlpool has received seven reports of fires involving these microwave-hood combinations. These incidents have resulted in extensive property damage. No injuries have been reported.

These are microwave oven and exhaust fan hood combination units that are installed above ranges. They were sold under the Whirlpool®, KitchenAid® and Kenmore® brand names. They have serial numbers that begin with XC. Open the door to locate the serial and model numbers. Department, electronics, home and appliance stores, as well as builder and remodelers, sold the microwave-hood combinations nationwide from January 1998 through September 2001 for between \$249 and \$749.

Countertop microwaves are not included in this recall.

October 18, 2001 - Release # 02-019 & 020 & 021 & 022

### **Wolf Range & Wolf Appliance Recall Residential Gas Ranges**

Wolf Range Co. Inc., of Compton, Calif., and Wolf Appliance Co. LLC, of Fitchburg, Wis., are recalling about 15,000 residential gas ranges for repair.

*Continued from page 10*



Wolf Appliance Co. acquired the product line in January 2000. Delayed ignition of gas in the ovens and broilers can put consumers at risk of burn injuries and fires. The firms are aware of three incidents of delayed ignition involving these ranges, including two reports of consumers getting their eyebrows singed.

These gas ranges were sold under the Wolf® and Wolf Gourmet® brand names, which are written on the front of the ranges. These are 30-inch, 36-inch, 48-inch, and 60-inch natural gas and LP ranges with the following serial numbers: 60-10000000 through 60-1099999 and 11000957 through 11006106. In most units, the serial number is located on the left side of the range beneath the removable burner pan on the range top. On some 48 inch models, the serial number is located in the same area on the right side. The ranges were either stainless steel or black steel.

Kitchen designers and appliance stores sold these ranges nationwide from January 1996 through June 2001 for about \$2,000 for the 30-inch models to about \$12,000 for the 60-inch units.

*October 18, 2001 Release # 02-021*

### **Norcold Recalls Combination Gas & Electric Refrigerators**

Norcold Inc., of Sidney, Ohio, is voluntarily recalling 360 free-standing, combination gas and electric refrigera-



tors. Tubing in the cooling unit can crack and leak flammable gas, presenting a fire and burn hazard to consumers.

Norcold has not received any reports of incidents. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries.

The recalled refrigerators are white, with black trim on the front, and have the Norcold logo on the bottom left corner of the control panel. The refrigerators have cooling unit serial numbers within the range of 1038000 to 1099000, which can be found on the black canister at the bottom right of the back of the refrigerator.

Specialty retailers nationwide sold the refrigerators from May 1999 through January 2000 for about \$900.

*October 18, 2001 Release # 02-020*

### **American Water Heater Co. Recalls Burners in Gas Water Heaters**

The American Water Heater Co., of Johnson City, Tenn., is voluntarily recalling about 16,000 gas-fired water heaters to replace the gas burners. The burners could produce excess carbon monoxide (CO), posing a risk of CO poisoning to consumers.

CPSC and the American Water Heater Co. have not received any reports of injuries or incidents relating to these water heaters. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries. The firm discovered the problem with the burners on these water heaters during routine testing.

Only natural gas water heaters sold under the following brand names are included in the recall: American Proline, Envirotemp, Mor-Flo, Powerflex, Premier Plus and US Craftmaster. The serial number, located on the data plate on the front of the water heater, starts with 0124 through 0127. The water heaters were sold in both short and tall profiles, and have 30, 40, 50 and 75 gallon capacities.

Home center stores and contractors sold and installed these water heaters nation-



wide from June 2001 through September 2001 for between \$200 and \$500.

*October 18, 2001 Release # 02-019*

### **National Presto Industries Inc. Announces Recall of Deep Fryer Basket Handles**

National Presto Industries Inc. (Presto) of Eau Claire, Wis., is voluntarily recalling to replace up to 50,000 Presto CoolDaddy electric deep fryer basket handles. The handles on the fryer baskets can come off, resulting in hot oil splattering the user and bystanders.

Presto has received 63 reports of basket handles coming off, including 10 reports of consumers being splattered with hot oil. The injuries include



minor burns to the arms and face. The Presto CoolDaddy electric deep fryers have model numbers 0544404 (product number 21-419) and 0544504 (product number 21-439). The deep fryers are white with the words, "Presto CoolDaddy or "Presto Pride® CoolDaddy®" written on the front. The model numbers are located on the bottom of the deep fryer and the product number is located on the bottom of the carton. Only the deep fryer baskets with silver screws attaching the basket handle are involved in this recall.

Department stores sold the deep fryers nationwide from July 2000 through June 2001 for between \$50 and \$70.

*October 31, 2001 - Release # 02-032*

### **Recall of Twister Portable Lamps**

Emess Lighting Inc. and SLI Lighting Solutions Inc. are voluntarily recalling about 480,000 Twister portable lamps and will provide consumers with an in-home repair kit. The lamp's bulb can become hot, presenting a risk of burn injuries to consumers, and the risk of fire if the bulb comes in contact with combustible materials.

Emess Lighting, SLI Lighting Solutions and CPSC have received five reports of injuries to consumers (including four burns and one laceration) and 12 reports of property damage due to the bulb coming in



contact with bedding, carpeting, and upholstered furniture.

The recalled Twister™ lamps are 38 inches tall, have a flexible neck, and Looney Tunes™ or Disney™ cartoon characters on the plastic shade. Some lamps have no cartoon characters, but have black, white, blue, green, yellow, red or purple plastic shades. A silver label near the bulb reads in part, "Caution: To Reduce the Risk of Fire Use 40 Watt MAX. Made in China."

Retail stores and catalogs nationwide sold the lamps between January 1997 and June 2001 for about \$18.

*November 6, 2001 - Release # 02-036*

### **Progress Lighting Recalls Fluorescent Lights**

Progress Lighting, of Spartanburg, S.C., is voluntarily recalling about 10,600 fluorescent lights. The lights are improperly wired, posing a fire hazard.

Progress Lighting has received two reports of these fluorescent lights smoking and smoldering. No injuries have been reported.

The recalled fluorescent ceiling and bathroom lights were sold in various shapes and sizes including domes, cylinders and rectangles. The white Underwriters Laboratories label on the light contains the manufacture's name, "PROGRESS LIGHTING;" the manufacture date, between March 1998 and March 1999; and catalog number. The label is located on the fixture's housing under the white plastic lens covering the bulbs. Con-

sumers should turn off the power before removing the lens to examine the lights. The recalled lights have the following catalog numbers:

711460-005, 711560-EB0, 711660-EB0, 711660-EB5, 714710-005, 715715-085,

714730-005, 714810-EB0, 714815-EB0, 714830-EB0, 714910-EB0, 714915-EB0,

714930-EB0, 716030-095, 716035-005, 716130-EB0, 716135-EB0, 716230-EB0,

716235-EB0, 720110-005, 720530-005, 720630-005, 721330-EB0, 721430-EB0,

721530-EB0, 721630-EB0, 726230-EB0, 726235-003, 726330-EB0, 726430-EB0,

726435-003, 728560-EB0, 733435-003, and 733530-003.

Electricians and electrical supply companies sold these lights nationwide from March 1998 through July 1999 for about \$90. ♦

## **Mattress Flammability Standards**

*Continued from page 3*

the number of fire-related deaths in 1998. In 1998, mattresses or bedding items were first to ignite in about 18,100 residential fires that resulted in 390 deaths and 2,160 hospital emergency room injuries. Additionally, these fires cost more than \$200 million in property damage. CPSC estimates that a new safety standard could significantly reduce the deaths, injuries and property damage from mattress-related fires.

Most of these fires begin when a small, open flame ignites bedding. The bedding fire can then grow into a much larger fire involving the mattress.

♦



## 2001 BMW Fires

*Continued from page 1*

approximately 26,000 vehicles nationally. The National Highway Transportation Safety Association (NHTSA) campaign ID #'s for the recalls are 01V206000, 01V206001, 01V206002, and 01V206003.

The possibility of a fan malfunction is high, although the probability of a fire caused by that malfunction is relatively low. The defective part is in the fan's electric motor. The fans were manufactured by Siemens Corporation.

Within the past two months, Massachusetts has been home to two such incidents, resulting in engine fires that caused the ignition of residential structure fires that totally destroyed the homes.

On September 6, 2001, at 4:41 p.m. the Sharon Fire Department was called to a fire in a single family home. The fire started in the garage when the auxiliary cooling fan of a 2001 BMW 530i short-circuited, overheated and ignited itself. The fire engulfed the engine compartment of the automobile and spread to the attached garage where it was parked. The fire then spread to the remainder of the residence. There were no injuries associated with this fire, however, damages from this blaze were estimated at \$800,000.

On October 21, 2001, at 1:03 p.m., the Hanson Fire Department was called to a fire in a single family home. The fire started in the attached garage when the auxiliary cooling fan of a 2001 BMW X5 short-circuited, overheated and ignited itself. The fire engulfed the engine compartment of the SUV and soon spread to the attached garage where it was parked. The fire then spread to the remainder of the residence. One firefighter was injured when a railing he was leaning on gave way causing him to fall approximately 10 feet, landing facedown and on his arm, causing him to fracture his elbow. Damages from this blaze were estimated to be \$400,000.

## CPSC Sues Over Defective Star Fire Sprinklers

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced on October 11, 2001 its staff filed an administrative Complaint (pdf) against Sunbeam Corporation and its subsidiaries Chemetron Corporation and Chemetron

Investments, Inc., of Boca Raton, Florida, and Grucon Corporation and its subsidiary Sprinkler Corporation of Milwaukee, Inc., of Wisconsin. The CPSC's three Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the issuance of the Complaint. The Complaint alleges that Star Sprinkler's model ME-1 fire sprinkler made from 1977 through 1995 presents a substantial product hazard. The Complaint seeks a nationwide recall of the approximately 700,000 Star ME-1's Star Sprinkler manufactured during this period.

In its Complaint, the CPSC staff alleges that these sprinklers are defective and are likely to fail to operate properly in a fire, thus exposing the public to serious injury or death. The sprinklers have been installed in day care centers, nursing homes, health care facilities, supermarkets, and other buildings. The CPSC staff is aware of a nursing home fire in which three Star ME-1's reportedly failed to operate.

The CPSC staff filed the Complaint after discussions with the companies failed to result in a voluntary recall and replacement plan. In seeking a recall of the Star ME-1 sprinklers, the Complaint calls for extensive public notice of the hazard and remedy.

The CPSC previously announced that Mealane Corporation voluntarily recalled Star ME-1's manufactured from 1975 through 1976. In addition, Central Sprinkler Company voluntarily recalled Star ME-1's manufactured from 1996 through 1998. Consumers can obtain information about those

recalls at CPSC's web site: 99-152 and 01-201.

While the CPSC staff pursues an acceptable recall and replacement plan, consumers with Star ME-1 sprinklers should be sure to have at least one fully operational smoke detector on every floor of their home, especially near bedrooms. The CPSC staff also recommends that consumers have a well defined and rehearsed escape plan and an alternate escape plan in the event of a fire. As always, consumers should diligently practice fire safety to reduce the possibility that a fire will occur. Consumers can obtain fire safety information by calling CPSC's toll-free hotline at (800) 638-2772 or by visiting CPSC's web site where fire safety publications are provided.

The CPSC staff urges anyone who is aware of any instances in which a Star ME-1 sprinkler has failed to operate properly when tested, or in a fire to report that information to the CPSC using CPSC's on-line reporting form. If you have questions, send an email to [info@cpsc.gov](mailto:info@cpsc.gov) or call CPSC's toll-free Hotline at (800) 638-2772. ♦

## Fire Investigation News

*Continued from page 6*

### Wilmington Series of Arson Fires Solved

Between 2:30 and 4:00 a.m. on the night of October 30, 2001 five outside fires were set in a wooded area between Route 28 and Wilmington City Hall. A man known to hang out in the area who was seen around the time of the fires was brought in for questioning by members of the Fire Investigation Unit's North Team. The recently homeless man was wearing a brand new leather jacket with the store's price tags still attached. He was eventually charged with receiving stolen property, but his alibi for the fires checked out. The investigation then focused on a group of people who routinely hang out at a 24-hour doughnut shop. A

## Fire Investigation News

*Continued from page 8*

second suspect developed, 20-year old Michael J. Fournier of Wilmington, who had been seen leaving the doughnut shop around 2 a.m. heading in the direction of where the fires had been set. Local police and fire remembered the man had a history of juvenile firesetting about 8 years ago. He is scheduled to appear at a hearing in Woburn District Court on February 15, 2002 and will be charged with four counts of burning woods, one count of burning personal property and destruction of personal property.

### Six Charged in Destruction of Methuen's Rendezvous Nightclub

The Rendezvous Nightclub in Methuen had been vacant for years but was finally under agreement to be sold. The town was looking forward to seeing the property, which is surrounded by 4-acres of parking, becoming productive. On November 6, two adults and two juveniles broke into the building and vandalized it. On November 8, the adults and two different juveniles broke in, vandalized the building some more and set a number of small fires. These small fires failed to take down the building. The following night, November 9, the first pair of juveniles and the adults broke into the building a third time and set a fire that burned the building to the ground. The break in this case came because a Methuen patrolman stopped and questioned two kids cutting through the parking lot. One had a knapsack filled with tools – the kind used to commit a burglary – and a roll of toilet paper. Their story did not really add up and a few minutes later the fire was going good. With quick sharing of this information, the investigative team quickly tracked down some of the juveniles and was able to put the case together. Complaints will be sought in

district court against the two adults for three counts of breaking and entering in the nighttime with intent to commit a felony, and arson of a building; against the juveniles from the night of November 8, only for breaking and entering and the number of small fires; and the other pair of juveniles for two counts of breaking and entering in the nighttime with intent to commit a felony and burning of a building.

### ISU Helps North Team Wrap It Up Quickly

Investigators used the new Incident Support Unit (ISU) from the Department of Fire Services as the command center. Being able to have it right at the fire scene with two interview rooms and a separate place for investigators to compare notes, was extremely helpful and assisted them in wrapping up the complicated case in a single day.

### Lucy's Last Day

The Rendezvous nightclub was the last fire accelerant detection canine Lucy worked. After working side-by-side with Trooper Paul Horgan for years, she has finally retired. Although she enjoys eating out of a bowl instead of working for every mouthful, she misses the fulfillment of working everyday and the companionship of being with Paul.



### Two Suffolk County Auto Arsons Solved

#### Owners Lose Vehicles and Insurance Money

A 27-year old professional Winthrop man tried to get out from under onerous payments on his \$30,000 SUV by arranging for it to be "stolen" and "torched." He drove it to Pizzeria Uno's parking lot at 339 Squire Road on October 30, 2001, damaged it to make it look like it was stolen, lit it on fire and had a friend drive him home. The man made a number of missteps

including using gasoline and a large firework to set the fire. He could easily have killed himself and injured anyone close by. His other major misstep was telling his girlfriend and then breaking up with her a week later. He is charged with burning a motor vehicle with intent to defraud the insurance company, filing a false police report and filing a false insurance claim.

In Chelsea, last month, Jose Castillo set his 1999 Plymouth Laser on fire two blocks from his home. He wanted the insurance money to send to his sick mother in Puerto Rico. ♦

## 8 S.A.F.E. Programs to Receive Grants from Local Bank

### North Middlesex Savings Bank Launches Family Fire Safety Coalition in Time for Fire Prevention Week

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan attended the October 4, 2001 press conference in Ayer to thank the North Middlesex Savings Bank for providing grants to area Student Awareness of Fire Education, or S.A.F.E., Programs. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the S.A.F.E. Program which enables trained firefighter-educators to work with classroom teachers to bring messages of fire and life safety education. Coan thanked bank President and CEO William P. Marshall and officials from the Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, Pepperell, Shirley and Townsend Fire Departments for "helping to raise a fire safe generation of children."

While many of the 244 fire departments participating in the seventh year of the S.A.F.E. Program have leveraged community resources to support individual programs, we believe that this type of corporate support for multiple local S.A.F.E. Programs is unprecedented. ♦

# MFIRS CORNER

## ***Coding Anthrax & Other Infectious Substance Calls***

Since the first case of anthrax in New York City was made public on October 12, many of your departments have been inundated with hazardous material calls for possible infectious substances. We have received many inquiries as how to code these calls. Unfortunately NFIRS and subsequently MFIRS does not have a specific code to handle such situations.

### **Version 4**

If you are still using version 4, your *Type of Situation Found* should be coded as 40 – Hazardous Condition, Standby; insufficient information available to classify further. Once you have been informed that the material or substance is not hazardous, change the code to 49 – Hazardous Condition, Standby not classified above.

### **Version 5**

If you have converted to version 5 your *Incident Type* should be coded as 400 – Hazardous Condition, other. When informed that the material or substance in question is not hazardous, change the code to 671 – HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat.

As of this writing, there have been no confirmed incidents of anthrax or any other infectious substance in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We understand that most departments have not been notified if the material in question has been tested and deemed by the appropriate authorities as non-hazardous. If you are unable to find out the results just leave the incident coded as either a 40 (v4) or 400 (v5). For your own future review of these types of calls, we suggest that you use the Remarks section to elaborate the specific details of the incident.

Some departments may use the option of Plus-one coding to better record these types of calls. That is acceptable to this office if the main code is one of the codes mentioned above. Remember

that neither the state nor the federal users of these reports are able to read your individual Plus-one codes.

## ***MFIRS Classes***

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has scheduled four MFIRS version 5.0 classes. The following is a list of dates and locations that have been scheduled for MFIRS v5.

200039613 B  
1/16/02 - 0800-1200 hrs  
Andover, MA

200039613 C  
2/12/02 - 0800-1200 hrs  
Plymouth, MA

200039613 D  
3/20/02 - 0800-1200 hrs  
DFS - Northampton

## ***Version 4 Ends Midnight Dec. 31***

As of 12/31/01, DFS will only accept fire incident reports in version 5 format. If you need the version 5 forms and/or a Quick Reference Guide (QRG) for coding, please contact Derryl Dion, Research Analyst/MFIRS Manager at (978) 567-3382. He will also be able to answer any of your other MFIRS questions.

## ***2000 MFIRS Annual Report***

Analysis of the 2000 fire data is underway. If you have any good anecdotes about particular types of fires in calendar 2000 (such as candles, space heaters, dormitories, gas stations, etc.) or anecdotes that demonstrate fire prevention worked (such as sprinklers containing the fire, working smoke alarms minimizing human or property damage, or pre-construction considerations minimizing paying off when a fire struck), we'd like to hear from you. Examples of public education positively effecting an outcome (such as

installing a smoke alarm upon urging of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and then needing it, or finding the entire family at the meeting place) would also be welcome.

## ***2000 M-BIRS Annual Report***

The 2000 Annual Report of the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS) has gone to press in November. This report looks at the leading causes of burn injuries and analyzes burn injuries by age group to better target prevention strategies. Burns of 5% or more of the body surface area must be reported to the State Fire Marshal by the attending physician or medical treatment facility. The goal of the burn registry is to detect arsonists who may injure themselves while setting the fire and then seek medical treatment far away from the crime to avoid detection. However, the leading cause of burns is scalds and the biggest burn injury problem is hot liquid scalds to children under 5. ♦

The **DFS Quarterly** is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to: Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: [Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us)

The **DFS Quarterly** is published by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a service to the fire service community. It can be found on-line at [www.state.ma.us/dfs/pubs/dfsq.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dfs/pubs/dfsq.htm).

Thank you to Judy O'Brien for keen-eyed proofreading and elegant rewording.





# *T'was the Night for Fire Safety*

*author unknown*

'T  
was the  
night be-  
fore Christ-  
mas, when all  
through the house  
★ Not a creature was  
stirring, not even a  
mouse. ★ When down  
through the chimney, all cov-  
ered with soot ★ Came the  
“Spirit of Fire”, an ugly galoot. ★  
His eyes glowed like embers, his fea-  
tures were stern ★ As he looked all  
around him for something to burn. ★ What  
he saw made him grumble-his anger grew  
higher ★ For there wasn't a single thing that  
would start a good fire. ★ No door had been blocked  
by the big Christmas tree ★ It stood in the corner,  
leaving passageways free. ★ The lights that glow brightly  
for Betty and Tim ★ Had been hung with precaution, so  
none touched a limb. ★ All wiring was new, not a break could  
be seen ★ And wet sand at its base kept the tree nice and green.  
★ The tree had been trimmed by a mother insistent ★ That the  
ornaments used should be fire resistant. ★ The mother had known the  
things to avoid, ★ Like cotton and paper and plain celluloid. ★ Rock  
wool, metal icicles and trinkets of glass ★ Gave life to the tree - it really had  
class. ★ And would you believe it, right next to the tree ★ Was a suitable box  
for holding debris ★ A place to hold wrappings of paper and string ★ From all of  
the gifts that Santa might bring. ★ The ugly galoot was so mad he could bust ★ As  
he climbed up the chimney in utter disgust. ★ For the folks in this  
home had paid  
close attention ★  
To all of the  
rules of good  
fire prevention.

## Graduation *Continued from page 1*

### **Today's Fire Department Does Much More than Fight Fires**

Today's firefighters do far more than fight fires. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to a gas leak. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice or who has locked himself in a bathroom. They rescue people from stalled elevators and those who are trapped in vehicle accidents. They test and maintain their equipment, ranging from self-contained breathing apparatus to hydrants to hoses, power tools and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy they learn all these skills and more from certified fire instructors who are also experienced firefighters. Students learn all the basic skills they need to respond to fires and to contain and control them. They are also given training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management,

water rescue procedures, confined space rescue techniques, and rappelling. The intensive, eleven-week program for municipal firefighters involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training and live firefighting practice.

graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple room structural fires. Upon successful comple-



*Recruit Class #147*

### **Basic Firefighter Skills**

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To

tion of the Recruit Program all students have met national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council. ♦



**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES**  
**P.O. Box 1025**  
**Stow, MA 01775**

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